

NIST Special Publication (SP) 800-53 Release 5.1.1 and Comment Period FAQ

Why is NIST issuing a patch release for SP 800-53?

NIST recognizes the importance of stability and agility in our guidance, and we can provide up-to-date cybersecurity guidance and frameworks in user-friendly and machine-readable formats using the [Public Comments on SP 800-53 Controls](#) website and the [Cybersecurity and Privacy Reference Tool](#). Patch releases include minor changes that do not impact the technical content of the standard, guideline, or framework.

What are the changes in patch Release 5.1.1?

In this patch Release 5.1.1, NIST is proposing one new control and two supporting control enhancements with corresponding assessment procedures related to identity providers and authorization servers, protection of cryptographic keys, and verification of identity assertions and access tokens. NIST is also making minor grammatical edits and clarifications to SP 800-53 Release 5.1 based on internal review and feedback from users in order to improve the usability of the controls. Release 5.1.1 will be issued in the [Cybersecurity and Privacy Reference Tool](#), which will allow users to download the controls in JSON and spreadsheet format.

Why is NIST holding an expedited comment period?

Transparency and openness are critical to NIST's guideline development process. To ensure that the user community can review and provide feedback on the new control, control enhancements, and assessment procedures, NIST is holding an expedited 2-week public comment period for **October 17–31, 2023**.

How do I participate in the comment period?

All interested users may review and submit comments on the proposed new control, control enhancements, and assessment procedures by selecting the *"Candidates"* button on the [Public Comments on SP 800-53 Controls](#) website. For step-by-step instructions on submitting comments on *Candidates*, refer to the SP 800-53 Comment Site [User Guide](#), *"View Candidates (draft controls available for public comment)"* and *"Provide comment on candidates."* Note that the proposed control enhancements are shown below the proposed control and collapsed by default.

I want to submit a comment, why is NIST asking for my email address?

The comment submission process includes a step to verify comments. You will receive a system-generated email to review and confirm your submission, and having your email address allows the NIST team to reach out if we have any follow-up questions. **Your email address will not be shown on the Public Comment Website.**

I submitted a comment, why is it not showing on the Public Comment website?

NIST reviews public comments prior to making them publicly viewable to ensure they are appropriate. NIST cannot edit comments submitted as part of the public comment process. Do not include any information you do not want to be made public into the comment field.

When are comments due?

Comments are due by October 31, 2023.

My organization is already using SP 800-53, Revision 5 (or Release 5.1). Do I need to update my security and privacy plans and current control implementation?

NIST does not mandate implementation. The proposed new control and control enhancements are not selected in any [SP 800-53B] control baseline, and the other changes do not impact the technical content or implementation. Organizations have the option to defer implementing the changes included in Patch Release 5.1.1 until SP 800-53 Release 6.0.0 is issued.

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What are the next steps and timeline for the patch release?

The public comment period will be open from October 17–31, 2023. NIST will then adjudicate the comments received and issue SP 800-53 Release 5.1.1 in **early November 2023** via the [Cybersecurity and Privacy Reference Tool](#).

What is the timeline for NIST SP 800-53, Revision 6?

A timeline for NIST SP 800-53, Revision 6 (or Release 6.0.0) has not yet been determined.

What if I have other questions?

Additional questions and comments can be directed to 800-53comments@list.nist.gov.